

REMARKS

In the final office action, dated May 17, 2007, the examiner allowed claim 23. The examiner rejected claims 18, 19-22 and 24-27. In this amendment and reply after final, the applicant hereby cancels claims 18 and 26 and amends dependent claims 19-22, 24, 25 and 27 so that they now depend from allowable claim 23, instead of cancelled claim 18. The applicant requests that the examiner enter the amendment.

Reexamination and reconsideration are requested.

As is the case here, “[a]ny amendment that will place the application either in condition for allowance or better form for appeal may be entered.” MPEP 714.12. The amendments here avoid the rejections in the final office action and place the application in condition for allowance because: (1) claim 23 has been allowed; (2) rejected claims 18 and 26 have been cancelled; (3) dependent claims 19-22, 24, 25 and 27 have been amended to change their dependency from cancelled claim 18 to allowed claim 23; and (4) claims 1-17 were previously cancelled as a result of an election in response to a restriction requirement.

In addition, none of the amendments introduce new matter, present additional claims or present new issues requiring further consideration or search. See MPEP 714.13. Since, by virtue of this amendment, the only claims that will remain in the case (independent claim 23 and claims depending from it) are allowable, putting the case in condition for allowance, the amendment should be entered.

Should the amendment be entered, the applicant believes that all of the claims then pending in this patent application, as amended and described above, are allowable and that all other issues raised by the examiner have been addressed. Therefore, the applicant respectfully requests that the examiner enter the amendment and grant an

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allowance. If any questions or issues remain to be resolved the examiner is requested to contact the applicant's attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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